

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 28-54 are pending in the application, with claims 28, 36, 40, 41, 45, 49, and 51 being the independent claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims introduce no new matter. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Interview Summary

On behalf of the Applicants, the undersigned wishes to express appreciation to Examiner Clow for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on April 4, 2006. During the interview, Applicants' representatives discussed proposed amendments to the pending claims to address the rejections under §§ 101 and 112, 2nd paragraph, and discussed the applied references. The Examiner indicated that the proposed claim amendments and proposed claims overcame the rejections and that the amended claims and proposed claims distinguished over the cited art.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 11 as being grammatically incorrect. Claim 11 has been amended. Accordingly, the objection to claim 11 has been rendered moot.

The Claims Are Directed to Patentable Subject Matter and are Definite

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112, 1st paragraph as not being supported by a specific asserted utility or a well-established utility. Claims 1-27 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-27 have been canceled, thereby rendering such rejections moot.

The newly added claims are consistent with the amendments and proposed claims discussed with the Examiner, with the Examiner indicated were directed to patentable subject matter and were definite.

Also as discussed with the Examiner, support for the claims may be found in the application as filed. For example, support for many of the claim elements is found in paragraphs [0028] to [0033].

The Claims are Allowable over the Prior Art

Claims 1-7, 13-16, 18-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Adam (PTO 1449 reference 19; Cancer Research (2002) Vol. 62, pages 3609-3614).

The Examiner indicated in the interview that the claims as proposed would overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 102. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the new independent claims and those claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding objections and rejections. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

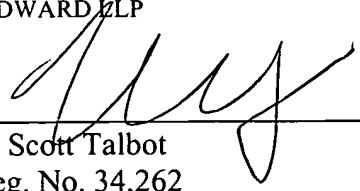
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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